

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IR
SUBJ: CIVAIR: PANAM SCHEDULE CHANGE

REF: TEHRAN 05831 AND PREVIOUS

1. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, E/C COUNSELOR SPOKE THIS MORNING WITH PRESIDENT OF IRAN AIR, GENERAL KHADEMI, ON SUBJECT OF PAN AM'S REQUEST OF GOI TO SUBSTITUTE BOMBAY FOR CALCUTTA ON 110-111 SERIES OF FLIGHTS. EMBOFF NOTED THAT PAN AM HAD AGREED TO FOREGO TEHRAN-BOMBAY-TEHRAN TRAFFIC RIGHTS ON BOMBAY STOP-OVER AND THAT MATTER WOULD BE REVIEWED DURING UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED ESSENTIAL TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE SUBSTITUTION AND STATED THAT USG THOUGHT THE REQUEST QUITE REASONABLE. FINALLY, EMBOFF NOTED THAT USG HAD BEEN UNUSUALLY ATTENTIVE TO GOI REQUESTS ON CIVAIR MATTERS AND THAT SOME RECIPROCITY IN THIS MATTER SEEMED ALTOGETHER APPROPRIATE.

2. GENERAL KHADEMI REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THE BOMBAY SUBSTITUTION OUGHT TO BE TAKEN UP IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE WHOLE OF THE BILATERAL TREATY. HE SAID THAT IRAN AIR HAS BEEN SERVICING BOMBAY FOR MANY YEARS, CLEARLY IMPLYING THAT HE SAW NO JUSTIFICATION
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FOR MAKING A UNILATERAL CONCESSION TO PAN AM AS REGARDS THE BOMBAY STOP-OVER. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT PAN AM HAS BEEN THE BENEFICIARY OF A LOT OF ROUTE FAVORS EXTENDED BY COUNTRIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD OVER THE YEARS AND THE AMERICAN CARRIER REALLY WAS NOT HURTING AS REGARDS ITS ROUTE STRUCTURE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HE VOLUNTEERED THE THOUGHT THAT HE HAD

BEEN MEETING WITH HIS OTHER TWO CIVILIAN COLLEAGUES (DGCA AND MFA'S LEGAL ADVISOR) AND THE MATTER HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

3. IN CLOSING, GENERAL KHADEMI SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO EXAMINE WHAT ALTERNATIVE THERE MIGHT BE AND WOULD BE WILLING ONCE AGAIN TO MEET WITH HIS COLLEAGUES TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT THERE WAS AN ALTERNATIVE AND CERTAINLY NONE HAD BEEN PRESENTED BY PAN AM. IN ANY EVENT, THE MEE CLOSED ON A CORDIAL NOTE WITH GENERAL KHADEMI PROFESSING AN OPEN MIND ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE.

4. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WE ARE ENCOUNTERING STIFF OPPOSITION ON THE PAN AM REQUEST. IT IS LIKELY THAT GENERAL KHADEMI HAS ADVANCED TO HIS COLLEAGUES ALL SORTS OF LOSS OF REVENUE ARGUMENTS, DOUBTLESS PUT FORTH IN A PERSIAN CONTEXT OF NO CONCESSION WITHOUT A QUID PRO QUO. NONETHELESS, EMBASSY WILL SPEAK WITH MFA LEGAL ADVISOR AND DGCA TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY GIVE ON THE IRANIAN SIDE. WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE NONE, BUT WE WILL PERSEVERE.

5. DEPT WILL BE KEPT PROMPTLY ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.

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